



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re the Appln. of: TAFT

Serial No.: 10/029,658

Filed: December 20, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREPARING TISSUE SAMPLES...

Docket: VMS 01.01

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Qugm

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to Examination of the subject Application, please amend the Application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 11-16 to read as follows:

11 (Amended) A cassette having a hollow for receiving and retaining a tissue specimen for fluid treatment preparatory to histological examination, comprising a top portion and a bottom portion snap or friction mounted to the top portion, the bottom portion having a side wall removable along a tear line.

12 (Amended) The cassette of claim 11, wherein said removable side wall bridges said top and bottom portions.

13 (Amended) The cassette of claim 11, wherein said removable side wall includes a pair of tear lines.

14 (Amended) The cassette of claim 11, wherein said removable wall includes a projecting tab to facilitate removal of said wall.

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